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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [BA](#) [GT](#) [VE](#) [ROW](#)
SUBJECT: BAHRAIN: DEMARCHE IN ADVANCE OF OCTOBER 16 UNSC
ELECTION

REF: A. STATE 169226
[1](#)B. STATE 168341
[1](#)C. STATE 162359

Classified By: CDA Susan L. Ziadeh for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Pol/Econ Chief October 10 delivered Ref A demarche concerning the October 16 election for the open GRULAC seat on the UN Security Council to MFA Director for International Organization Affairs Ghassan Shaikho. Shaikho replied that Foreign Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and NEA Assistant Secretary Welch had discussed this issue during their September 21 meeting on the margins of the UNGA. Shaikh Khalid had recognized a shift in support for Guatemala following Venezuelan President Chavez's speeches at the UNGA and the Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Havana. Specifically on Middle East issues, Shaikho reported that Shaikh Khalid told A/S Welch that Venezuela would be supportive of Arab positions while Guatemala was not involved. However, convinced that the United States would engage in a serious way on the Palestinian issue, Bahrain would be inclined to support Guatemala.

[1](#)2. (C) Shaikho told Pol/Econ Chief that Shaikh Khalid had still not issued instructions to the Bahraini mission to the UN on the GRULAC seat election, but Bahrain was "moving toward the choice that would be best for all;" that is, Guatemala. Shaikho implied that U.S. engagement on the Palestinian issue was a form of quid pro quo for Arab support for Guatemala.

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